

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 19-27 are currently pending in the above-captioned patent application.

Claims 19-27 are rejected. Claims 1-18 were previously canceled.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 19-24, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,466,976 of Alles et al. (hereafter “**Alles**”) in view of US Patent No. 6,453,406 of Sarnikowski et al. (hereafter “**Sarnikowski**”) and further in view of US Patent No. 6,674,756 of Rao (hereafter “**Rao**”); and (2) rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Alles, Sarnikowski and Rao and further in view of US Patent No. 6,243,580 of Garner (hereafter “**Garner**”).

Claims 19-27 as set forth in the Amendment and Response to Office Action submitted June 20, 2007, are the subject of this Appeal. The Claims Appendix below sets forth a copy of the appealed claims.